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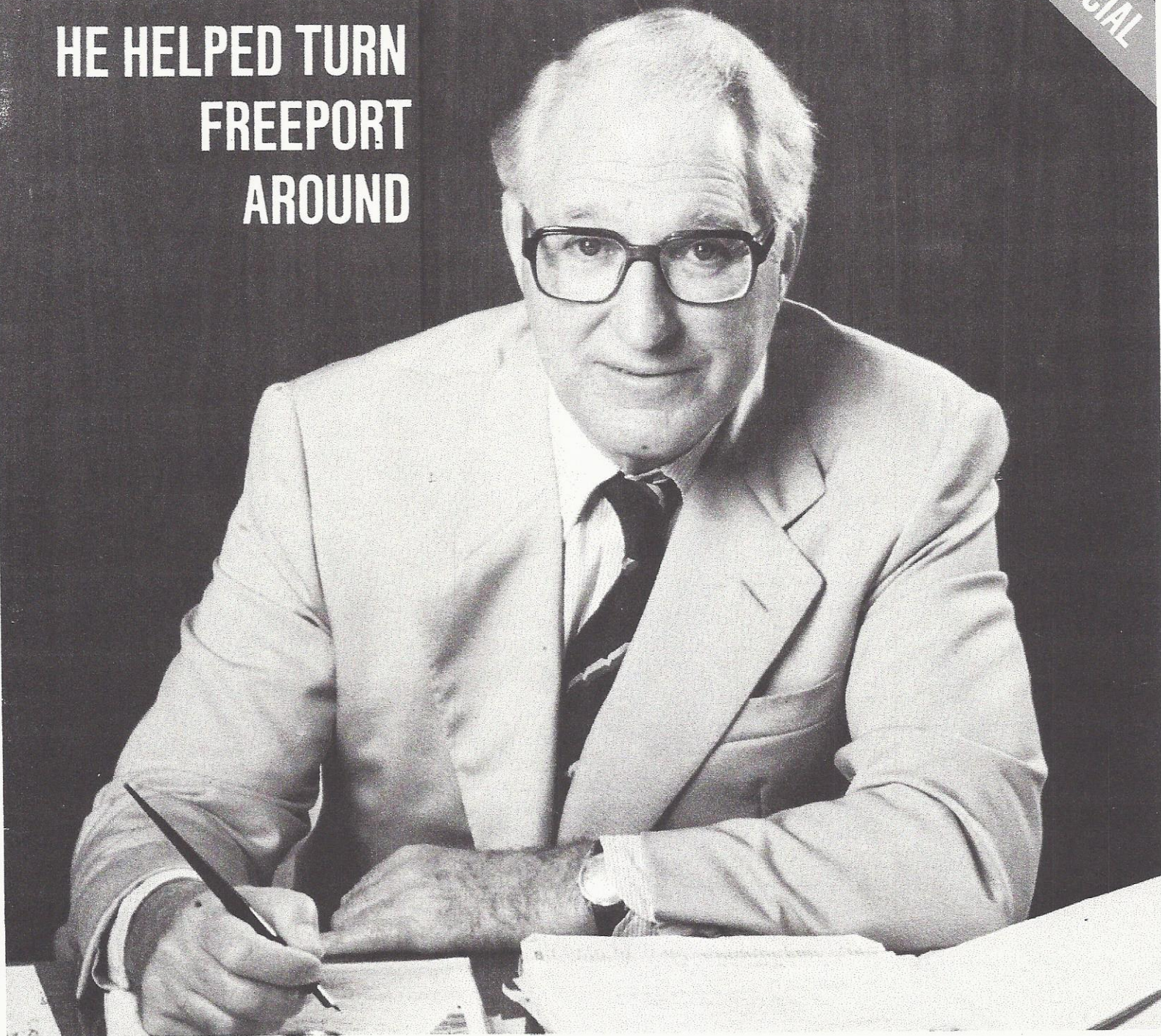
# BAHAMIAN REVIEW

THE NATIONAL MONTHLY NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE BAHAMAS

TOURISM  
BUSINESS  
FINANCE  
FREEPORT'S 25th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

## JACK HAYWARD C.B.E.

HE HELPED TURN  
FREEPORT  
AROUND



KNIGHTHOODS FOR WALLACE GROVES AND JACK HAYWARD?



# Editorial

## FREEPORT: THE MAGIC CITY

Freeport has been called many things, but the most appropriate one which seems to fit is the "MAGIC CITY". She got her name from back in the late 60's when business was booming. It was like a gold rush in this town, so I am told. Everyone could have at least two or more jobs if needed. Money was flowing like water, but like everything else it has a season, and that season ended almost as soon as it started.

Wallace Groves, D. K. Ludwick, and Jack Hayward together built Freeport, some a little more than others, but they did it. They laid the foundations, and she took off like a rocket, but things were going too good for Freeport. So in 1967 The Progressive Liberal Party came to power, and quickly stepped into Freeport to answer the calls out of the wilderness from Bahamian People, crying out that they felt like and in some instances were treated like foreigners in their own home town.

Well, the government in anger stormed into Freeport and laid down the rule. This frightened the people living in Freeport and those which had already invested in Freeport. They fled, only leaving a handful behind. Amongst the handful were the good and the bad, the rich and the survivors.

Many belts had to be tightened after the government tightened up on Freeport. Business didn't just get bad, it just disappeared. The dollar only went from one pocket to the next. No one was interested in investing anymore. Just waiting and surviving. Waiting for the storm to blow over and hoping that things would hurry and get back to normality again.

Well, that waiting for most is now just about over. The storm has cleared, the debris, moved away, and the renovations almost completed. We have survived, and life once more goes on. Cash registers ringing, typewriters clicking, phones buzzing, and people just being themselves, alive and on the move.

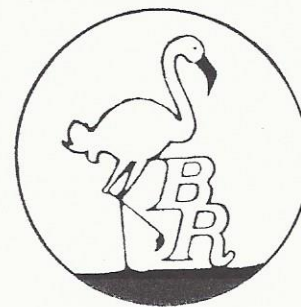
There's only one thing you can say for most of the people living in Freeport and that's they are survivors. They have proved themselves to the Bahamas and to the world. There is nothing too big or too small that Freeport can't handle. Most people and businessness in Nassau dislike Freeport for some reason or other and vice verser. Freeport presents a fear to the rest of the Bahamas because we all know that given half the chance, Freeport can do anything. We are a part of the Bahamas, but then again, we are independent. Nassau is like a mother, protecting her young, although it's time for them to look out for themselves. Mom we love you, but at least let us be ourselves. Continue to watch over us and be the mother which you are, but let us grow up to be something you can be proud of.

THE

# BAHAMIAN REVIEW

AND  
FREEPORT  
MAGAZINE

THE NATIONAL MONTHLY NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE BAHAMAS



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## BAHAMIAN REVIEW MAGAZINE

Collins Avenue  
P. O. Box N 1597, Nassau, Bahamas  
Single Copy \$2.00

Subscription Rates: \$36.00 Overseas — \$18.00 National

William Cartwright: Founder, President  
Kevin Cartwright: Associate Publisher  
Alvin Johnson: Associate Editor  
Mrs. Agnes N. Cartwright: Circulation  
Yvonne Eltham: Sales Coordinator  
Photography by: Stanley Toogood  
Ministry of Tourism Photographer

Subscribers in United States, Canada, The Caribbean, Latin America, England, Europe, The Near and Far East, New Zealand and Australia.

Foreign Representatives: R. H. Humphrey & Co., Ltd.  
122 Shaftesbury Avenue

(European)

(North American)

London, England

International Advertising

Consultants Ltd.

Toronto, Canada

Subscriptions and address changes should be sent to:

Bahamian Review Magazine, P. O. Box N494

Advertising Rates and Contract terms on request.

THE BAHAMIAN REVIEW MAGAZINE

is mailed out to 40 Foreign Countries

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NOVEMBER, 1980

VOLUME 28

NUMERO 8



# LETTER FROM WALLACE GROVES

## THE FOUNDER OF FREEPORT LUCAYA

It seems hard for me to believe that the City about which I dreamed, Freeport, is now twenty-five years old. I had high hopes for Freeport even before that day in 1965 when the enabling Act which was to be Freeport's birth was signed but I look back and wonder if I even imagined the success that we would have.

I am indeed proud of this the "Second City" of the Bahamas and here my mind fills with the names of all those who came and shared that dream with me and who were also responsible for the success. I hesitate to name them as I fear I will omit a name and there were literally hundreds of people who contributed their investment and perhaps even more importantly their time, talents and personal efforts to building a community. Many of those people are gone but they are remembered and we now look to the people who now live in Freeport and we should look not backwards (although on this rather special occasion, perhaps we are all allowed a look back and a sense of accomplishment at the past twenty-five years) but we should look forward to Freeport's future and the fine Bahamian city we have here, which provides us who live and work — and play here with an excellent standard of living, with Churches and Schools and other facilities to provide our families with a fine place to live.

It does indeed give me a great deal of pride to be called Freeport's "Founder." I feel it is something one can be proud of and I'm proud to still be a part of this thriving community. Mrs. Groves and I have lived so long on Grand Bahama, we raised



our family here, it is hard to think of anyplace else as "home."

I was asked what my message would be to the people of Freeport on this Anniversary, and I suppose that message would be firstly a sincere "Thank You" to all of the people who are responsible for what we know today as Freeport and as we stand with twenty-five years behind us to say to the community, of which Mrs. Groves and I still feel such a part, that I hope the next twenty-five years will be happy and prosperous ones and that they will give us something to be equally proud of.



# THE FOUNDING OF FREEPORT

*By Wallace Groves*

Looking back over the past twenty years many things come to mind.

When the Hawksbill Creek Act was agreed to twenty years ago there was very little on Grand Bahama Island. The area described in the Agreement and now known as Freeport/Lucaya had every small population.

My first connection with Grand Bahama Island was in 1946 when I purchased all of the shares of the Abaco Lumber Company and the lumber community at Pine Ridge. The population of Grand Bahama Island at that time was only about 3,000. The venture was in danger of going into bankruptcy and the price was only 50,000.

The mill was rebuilt, virtually all of the equipment replaced, an excellent school and medical clinic was established. Fortunately the business was financially successful. One of the problems of the business was it had to be a temporary one as the lumber was cut, and in 1955 I decided to sell the timber concession covering Grand Bahama Island and Abaco but keeping the company itself. The sale was to Owens Illinois Glass Company for \$4,000,000.

My work with the Abaco Lumber Company led to the idea which resulted finally in the present development. I wanted to establish a strong, permanent venture. I reasoned that a large body of land of approximately 150,000 acres, located so near the Florida mainland just off the Gulf Stream, could be made into a large, worthwhile venture. Fortunately this has come true.

In the beginning because I considered the venture one of great risk, I preferred to take in no partners and handle the development alone. It was not until later, when I was more certain of success, that I did sell a share interest of less than 50% to the two top-grade investors (Allen & Company of New York and the Hayward interests of London). This share ownership continued until 1969 when the venture became a public company through Benguet Consolidated, listed on the New York Stock Exchange. I remained and am the largest shareholder of the surviving company which has the Bahamian assets, Intercontinental Diversified Corp.

In the beginning, a deep-water Port had to be built as a condition precedent to the Hawksbill Creek Act becoming effective. Great care and thought; I felt, should be given to basic long-term

planning for the so-called 'Port Area' and it was not really until 1959-60 that the basic plan and utilities were completed to allow for sufficient necessary amenities for the development to really get off its feet.

From 1960 to 1969 some 4,000 hotel rooms, many apartments and homes were built, and schools, churches and civic facilities — together with utilities — were added. In addition, a number of basic industries became established. The basic foundation was based on:- (1) Industry (2) Tourism and (3) attracting outside residents. From 1969 to the present there has been a gradual growth.

I believe the results speak for themselves — and today Freeport does speak for itself. I take pride in what has been accomplished in many areas, especially our fine schools and churches, excellent roads and utilities as well as the basic planning. Looking back over the years, I do feel the basic concept was good. In the beginning, great thought was given, for example, to providing a water system that could be expanded to serve a city of 250,000 or more persons. I am also pleased that the original formula of having carefully spaced shallow depth wells (versus a trenching system), set with time clocks so that no more than 1,000 gallons of water per acre a day could be pumped, has proven a sound one. We now produce up to 4,500,000 gallons of truly excellent water a day and with no practical deterioration of our water reserve. Our basic planning as to producing electric energy has also proved sound and to such an extent that BORCO depends on us exclusively for power requirements for its \$300,000,000 installation as well as for its water requirements.

I am especially proud of the Garden of the Groves (which, incidentally is the only time I have permitted my name to be used). I feel that it is a most beautiful place, perhaps even the most beautiful spot in the Bahamas and that it shows what can be done with our somewhat difficult terrain.

No one knows the future of Freeport but it should have an excellent one. To assert my belief in Freeport/Lucaya just recently purchased the investment of my original partner, Allen & Company.

Freeport/Lucaya will endure and does have a long-term excellent outlook.



# **FREEPORT/LUCAYA: 25 YEARS LATER**

**By Marva Munroe**

Freeport/Lucaya has come of age. Its economy continues to grow — land sales and real estate, in general, having skyrocketed; construction is up by leaps and bounds. Tourism and industries continue to reach new heights. Today, Freeport's "rags to riches" story is evidenced all around this 149,578-acre mecca.

Some 25 years after its birth, Freeport/Lucaya's miracle story is still unfolding.

"We want everyone to see and hear about our growth and progress," said Jack Hayward, chairman of the board of Grand Bahama Development Company Limited, planners of this city. "Freeport/Lucaya is booming and we're certainly very proud about our plan that worked."

Work indeed it did. Back in 1955, Virginia-born financier Wallace Groves took a gamble on his belief that he could take a primitive island paradise and turn it into a major centre for industry, business, tourism and land development. He succeeded.

The signing of the Hawksbill Creek Agreement August 4, 1955, between Wallace Groves and the then Government of the Bahamas brought Freeport/Lucaya into existence. With hard work and co-operation between Government and the private sector, the result is today what hard-nosed businessmen conceded, a miracle.

Twenty-five years later, Freeport/Lucaya is Grand Bahama's driving economic force. The island's population is near 50,000. Almost half of its residents live in Freeport/Lucaya proper, where, currently the head-count gains at a phenomenal rate annually. While much of Freeport/Lucaya's

area is still undeveloped, its planners are preparing for a city accommodating double the current residents in another decade.

In the early 1950's, the island's 18th century-type economy was at a standstill. It was no joke that Grand Bahama was the poverty pocket of the Bahamas. Fellow Bahamians from more fortunate islands shunned Grand Bahama like the plague, for it was known up and down the archipelago as a "go-broke-place."

In its early days, Grand Bahama had few claims to fame. In 1513, Ponce de Leon, seeking the legendary "fountaing of youth," visited the island and termed the area off its north shore "bajamar," meaning shallow sea. This word, pronounced "baha-mar" in Spanish, is believed to have evolved into Bahama, the term that describes both the island and the country.

For more than 400 years after that visit of Ponce de Leon, Grand Bahama was an undiscovered Eden relegated to obscurity by the fast-moving events that followed in the wake of the frontiersmen who tamed nearby Florida and the islands of the Caribbean. A brief prosperity came with the United States Prohibition era when West End was a liquor trans-shipment point for the bootleggers. But, when Prohibition ended, the island slipped back into obscurity.

The delay in development was a blessing in disguise for Grand Bahama. When growth did come, it was planned, orderly and disciplined, free of the neon and glitter which have come to characterise so many modern resort areas, and free of many of the problems which plague industrial centres.

Despite its lacklustre history, the island's assets were many. It had bountiful supplies of fresh water, a rarity in the Bahamas. It was heavily timbered by dense forests of yellow pine, a commodity that was much in demand in the lumber and paper industries.

What the island of Grand Bahama needed was modern communications facilities — a harbour to handle the ships that carried the commerce of the Americas through the Gulf Stream to the rest of the world and a modern airport geared to travel in the Jet Age.

Today, Freeport/Lucaya, the nation's second city, boasts all these necessities, amenities and more.

Its international airport has undergone numerous expansions and improvements, including the addition of a U.S. Customs and Immigration preclearance facility, added runway footage and a spacious charter wing. And, there's more on the drawing board. An additional \$2 million is budgeted to be spent on the airport. Construction is currently underway on 6,000-square-foot of office space, a 30,000-square-foot concourse extension, doubling of U.S. Customs and Immigration facilities, creating a transit lounge, which will also be used as overflow area to the existing lounge, plus weather, flight service and control tower facilities are being expanded. Completion date is August, 1981.

Observed Albert J. Miller, president of Grand Bahama Port Authority Limited: "Just 25 years ago, Freeport/Lucaya was a logging camp. Today, it has a population of many thousands. It is a resort destination with an annual visitor count of approximately half million and it is an



industrial centre with substantial investment and even more substantial prospects for the future."

This city's past 25 years reflect many changes — some physical, some not. "We have advanced, so to speak, from the forest of the logging camp, along hundreds of miles of new road, into new and numerous residential communities," he added.

To show its confidence in Freeport/Lucaya, Grand Bahama Development Company Limited has constructed low-cost homes for Bahamians, wooed investors to this city, and its land sales increase daily.

Due to the growing demands for more homes on the island, DEVCO developed Fortune Bay Four in Lucaya, building several canal-front homes, Bahamians and foreigners purchasing property and doing likewise. Today, this subdivision is among Freeport's finest. In addition, moderately priced homes have also been constructed in Yeoman Wood.

Boosting construction of residential homes even more are discounted land sales to Bahamians by DEVCO.

Condominiums by European and other developers are also being built and sold throughout Lucaya and Bahamian, a prestigious residential subdivision.

Never to be outdone are industries, the backbone of this city's economy. The Bahamas Government and the Port Authority approved licences and ground is being broken with completion dates set for the not too distant future for many and diversified new industries taking advantage of the amenities this city was created to offer.

Already opening its doors is the Electric Auto Corporation in the bonded warehouse on Queen's Highway. Anglo American Research is conducting a pilot scheme for the company.

A \$6 million fertiliser plant, to be operated by Recycling and Compost Company of Canada Limited, have completed plans

for the Construction of a 60-ton a day compost plant for the manufacture of fertiliser. Scheduled to begin operation by December, 1980, the plant will be manned by a Bahamian staff.

Kendall Foods Corporation of Goulds, Florida and Packer Groves have announced joint plans to plant 2.4 million lime, avocado and mango trees on 2,000 acres in specially designated areas in Lucaya. This is the first time that such an ambitious agricultural project has been undertaken by private investment on Grand Bahama.

The company will be known in Freeport/Lucaya as Grand Bahama Growers Association. In addition to the groves, a packing and processing plant (for the manufacture of lime juice and avocado pulp) will be built. It is estimated that 350 Bahamians will be employed in this operation.

Slated to begin a \$35 million venture in a year is Smith Kline Chemical Plant, manufacturers of pharmaceutical products. Ground



**THE IMAGINATIVE DESIGN** of this \$3 million shopping mart, known around the world as Freeport's International Bazaar, blends the architecture of East and West in an exotic labyrinth that has been described as "harmonious confusion." Dominating the entrance to the Hong Kong section of this retail version of the United Nations is the picturesque New Hong Kong Restaurant. An impressive cobalt-blue tile Mandarin gate arches over the entrance to the street. A street so Chinese in character that it could easily fool an Oriental.



has already been broken adjacent to Syntex Corporation.

Asked about the future of heavy industry in Grand Bahama, Stanley Wilson, manager of industrial and commercial sales for DEVCO, said: "The future is very good but the thing about it is that you won't see a major industry overnight. We have a lot of major industries we've been working on for the past 18 months but it takes 18 months to three years for these concerns to break ground.

"The Government has identified Grand Bahama as the centre of heavy industry because of the infrastructure already in place. We'll continue to have industry in the pipeline."

Existing companies such as Syntex, which produces the arthritic treatment Naproxen, has increased its production plant by 50 per cent.

Todhunter Mitchell and Co. Ltd. is now working on plans to start bottling some of the top brands it represents in the Bahamas. The firm's bottling and blending facilities, located in the heart of the light industrial area, are now engaged in developing its export market to Germany, Canada and the U.S.

According to Wilson, small service industries, such as restaurants and retail outlets, owned by Bahamians, are also expected to expand as the economy expands.

Keeping pace with Freeport/Lucaya's continuous growth are hotels. Starting with a mere 35 hotel rooms in 1963, this resort's visitor accommodations have grown to over 3,500 rooms in more than 15 hotels. Latest tourist arrival figures for 1980 show Freeport/Lucaya ahead in foreign arrivals by 18.9 per cent over a comparable period last year. More hotels are planned.

Electricity, another reliable "barometer" for measuring economic growth, has proliferated in 25 years. In 1964, with 500 consumers, the generating capacity of Freeport Power Company

was 3,500 kilowatts. In 1980, the company has more than 8,000 consumers using 110,000 kilowatts. It has 500 miles of transmission and distribution lines.

The number of banks and financial institutions has grown with the population. Thirteen assorted private and merchant savings and loan, and commercial banks now offer in Freeport/Lucaya almost every conceivable type of banking service.

First-class schools are established and growing in size and scope, keeping pace with the population expansion and the resultant educational demands.

Education maintains its prominence in the continuing development of Freeport/Lucaya. The Grand Bahama Port Authority, from the very beginning, realised education's importance and constructed the first school in Freeport/Lucaya. That school was later turned over to the Methodist Missionary Society and today is called St. Paul's College.

The Port constructed a high school, too, which in turn is now part of the Anglican Diocese of the Bahamas - Freeport High School.

In addition, there's Catholic High School and several prepara-

tory schools in the community. The Bahamas Government maintains the largest high school in the Bahamas - Hawksbill High, and plans are now underway for another Government subsidised school within the area.

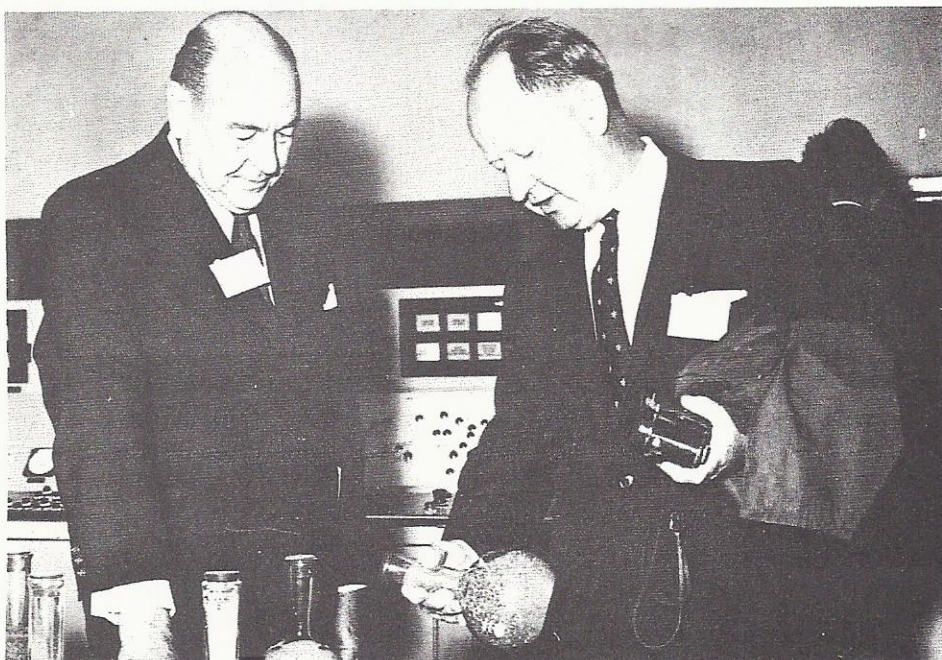
Many of these institutions offer not only day classes but also double as evening institutes. Matriculation is geared toward the Bahamas Junior Certificate and the General Certificate of Education. The University of Miami also offers a programme at the Masters degree level.

Modern medical facilities are available and most other professional services can be found. Numerous religious denominations are represented and are encouraged to grow with the community.

With most social, civic and fraternal organisations found in similar size cities meeting regularly and offering membership to both male and female, the active person has an opportunity to become involved.

Points out Miller: "As Freeport/Lucaya develops, there will be the need for further change. As our population increases so will the demand for basic social amenities.

"The Grand Bahama Port



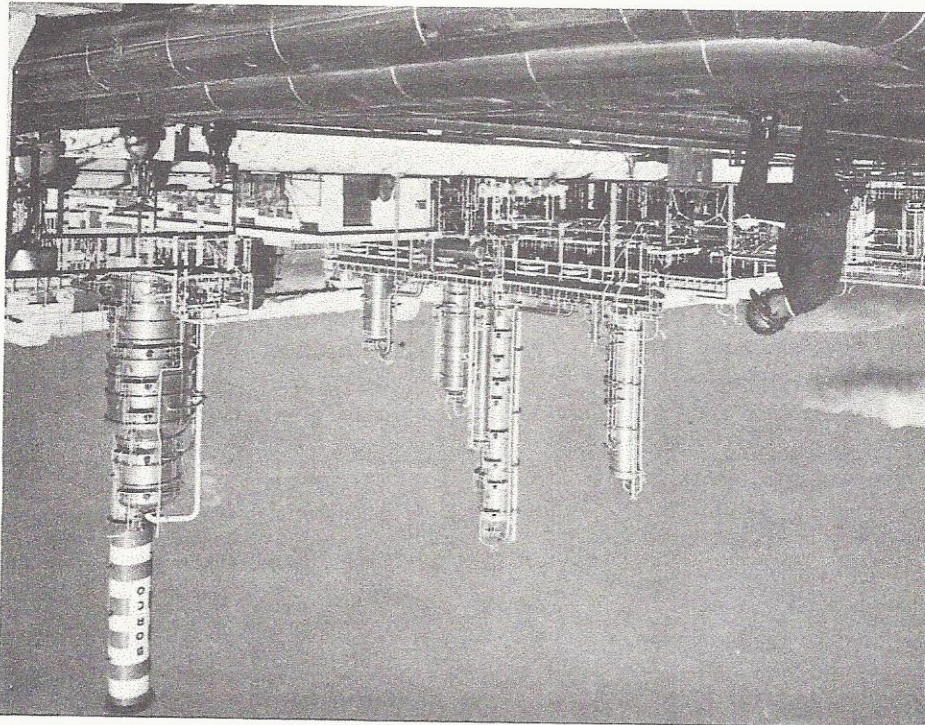
Wallace Groves and Leslie B. Worthington inspect various products of the Bahama Cement Company on Dedication Day, March 16, 1965.



**AERIAL SHOT of Garden of the Groves. A 12 Acre Botanical Wonderland. Featuring Tropical and Subtropical Plants, Flowers and Trees from Around the World.**



**BAHAMAS OIL REFINING COMPANY** the Bahamas' largest industrial complex, built at a cost of \$100 million near this city's harbour went "on line" with its first unit in November of 1970. The remaining units became operational before the end of the year and BORCO now processes 250,000 barrels of crude oil daily. The refinery's main products are a line of low-sulphur-content fuel oils used mainly in the heavily-populated north-eastern United States where atmospheric pollution has become a major problem. In addition, the operation produces jet fuel, petrochemical feedstocks, kerosene and diesel fuels. Officials of BORCO, although making no definite predictions, pointed out that similar installations have resulted in the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars in satellite industries over a period of 10 to 15 years. (Photo by Martin Clemens Studio)



Authority group of companies are confident and optimistic as we proceed to the next 25 years. "We will continue to exhibit a posture of co-operation and to play a leadership role in Freeport's and the Bahamas' social and economic growth and maturity." The latest expanse of cultural appreciation is Freeport Friends of the Arts. This group of concerned members of the community, including Jack Hayward, has showcased world class artists. Its home is the Regency Theatre. Performances are offered regularly. Among theatrical groups are the Grand Bahama Players and Freeport Players Guild who offer top-class stage productions.

The Grand Bahama Entertainers Association has instituted the annual Bahamian "composition of the month" to further inspire Bahamian composers and poets to perpetuate that section of the culture.

The Vera Allen School of Ballet has been in existence for some years. Many fine performers have had their introduction to dance at either this institute or at Lois Seiler Dance Studio.

The developers and planners of Freeport/Lucaya, the Grand Bahama Development in its Bahamianisation programme. Through the emphasis of education and culture, today, Bahamians hold positions of trust in every industry operational in the make-up of Freeport/Lucaya.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of its birth, a series of events starting the first week of November, 1980, and featuring a special proclamation inaugurating the Silver Jubilee, are in the planning stages by DEVCO. Political dignitaries from the Bahamas, the United States, England and other countries will be invited to attend.

The Grand Bahama Port Authority's concentrated and revitalised interest in this second city of the Bahamas, heralds the beginning of a continuing "rags to riches" story. Happy 25th anniversary, Freeport/Lucaya!



# CITY OF DREAMS

than 50 excellent restaurants which also reflect the cosmopolitan atmosphere created by the International Bazaar and the architectural contrasts found throughout the city. El Casino is the largest and one of the most opulent gaming houses in the hemisphere. Its Moorish design dominates the downtown skyline.

Sports is the third big feature of Freeport/Lucaya. There are six championship golf courses, over 36 tennis courts, riding stables and jogging tracks. Common with all other Bahamian islands, fishing, boating and scuba diving are easily arranged. The Underwater Explorers Club and the Museum of Underwater Exploration are both located here. ABC Television has twice exploited these assets to film the Superstars series. The weather is perfect for outdoor sports activities year round.

Freeport/Lucaya is liberally supplied with top-flight hotels.

For the visitor who dreams of remaining close to the heart of the action in Freeport, while cutting corners on costs, there are several interesting options. Relatively inexpensive accommodations can be found at the Atlantic Beach Hotel; the Silver Sands Sea Lodge; the Shalimar Hotel; the Coral Beach Hotel and the Arawak Hotel, Tennis and Golf Club.

The 175-room Atlantic Beach is situated on the three-mile long Lucaya beach only four miles from Freeport International Airport, and offers guests a fresh water pool, catamarans, boats and water skiin facilities. There are four good golf courses nearby and scuba diving is arranged across the road at the headquarters of the Underwater Explorers Society.

The Silver Sands is a 144-apartment hotel. Each apartment features a kitchen and bar decorated in a tropical theme. The Lodge is actually a condominium hotel. Rooms are rented

by the management on the owners' behalf on a pool system basis. On the premises is La Phoenix restaurant, one of the more popular spots in Freeport/Lucaya, featuring Bahamian and international cuisine.

Silver Sands features excellent tennis, horseback riding, scuba diving, glassbottom boats and a swimming pool. And the beach is only a few yards distant.

The Coral Beach Hotel, 10 minutes from the airport, is also located on Lucaya Beach and each of its 300 suites has a terrace or balcony from which to enjoy the panorama. Each suite has private kitchen facilities and is decorated in Mediterranean and Bahamian themes.

The Coral Beach has a shopping arcade and restaurant on the premises and the hotel's Sandpiper Lounge provides good night-time activity with live entertainment. There are private solariums on the roof, where one may get a more thorough tan than might be possible on the beach.

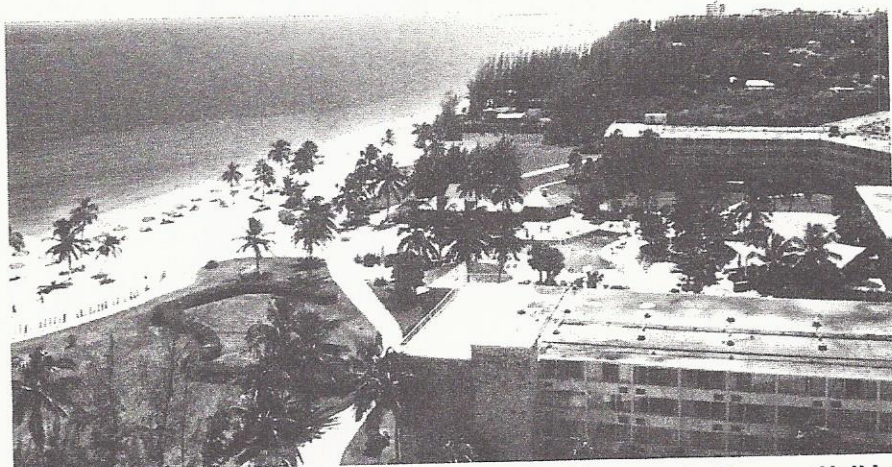
The Shalimar Hotel is a 10-minute walk from the Inter-

national Bazaar and offers 150 rooms, each with a private kitchen and balcony. There is a pleasant rooftop lounge which features Bahamian and American dishes and a lively bar.

The hotel has three swimming pools, tennis courts, table tennis, shuffleboard and a children's playground. Guests at the Shalimar also enjoy privileges at three nearby PGA golf courses. The central location of the hotel places it within easy reach, by foot or car, of most of the major attractions in the city. Scuba diving, sailing and fishing trips can be arranged.

The Arawak Hotel, Tennis and Golf Club is located on the outskirts of the city in order to accommodate its 10 tennis courts and 18-hole championship golfing green. This 120-room hotel features sports in a big way. Activities here also include horseback riding, cycling, boating, water skiing and scuba diving. There is, of course, a swimming pool and good docking facilities adjacent to the hotel.

These resorts, offering a combination of great sporting activi-



**500 ROOM FREEPORT HOLIDAY INN.**— With 500 rooms the Freeport Holiday Inn, is the largest hotel in the Lucaya area. Some one million dollars worth of improvement have already been completed in the resort. (Bahamas News Bureau photo by Basil Smith)

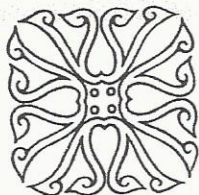


# CITY OF DREAMS



**THE GARDEN OF THE GROVES** has become one of Freeport's main tourist attractions. Covering 11 acres of tropical vegetation, man-made lakes and waterfalls, the gardens are located about seven miles from the International Bazaar, another of this city's landmarks. The structure in the photo is the beautiful chapel built on a hill. (Bahamas News Bureau photo by Fred Maura)

ty and bright night life, help to make Freeport/Lucaya a unique vacation experience. Out of the city, the native settlements and virgin pine forests of Grand Bahama bring an added dimension to a holiday — a chance to see what Grand Bahama was like before Wallace Groves brought his dream to reality.



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# KNIGHTHOODS FOR GROVES AND HAYWARD

Twenty-five years ago, a splendid boom town called Freeport emerged from 150,000 acres of barren pine forest on Grand Bahama Island. Before this time, Grand Bahama had been largely unpopulated and there was very little economic activity there. What made Freeport so unique among Bahamian cities was that it was, at the time, far more modern than even the Bahamas capital, Nassau. In a word, Freeport was a 'planned' metropolis with excellent housing, efficient utilities, industrial facilities, abundant employment opportunities and land development projects. Freeport was the dream city of American financier Wallace Groves. He envisioned Freeport as a large industrial and commercial centre of a quarter million people.

Through his company, The Grand Bahama Port Authority, Groves negotiated a 99-year lease with the Bahamas government. The lease was part of the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, which gave the Port Authority freedom from taxes for the duration of the agreement and wide-reaching governmental powers to administer the city. The Port could even bring in foreigners without the prior consent of the Bahamas government.

To create a wider appeal to investors and potential investors, Groves had to modify his blueprint for an industrialized city and place more emphasis on land development and tourism before Freeport began to show appreciable growth. Indicative of this switch of emphasis was the building of a casino in 1964. Once Freeport began to grow, however, its growth was so phenomenal that at one time it was called "the fastest growing city in the western hemisphere".

After the Progressive Liberal Party came to power in 1967, it found it necessary to bring Freeport into the mainstream of other Bahamian islands. Headed by Prime Minister Lynden O.

Pindling, the government made several critical abrogations in the Hawksbill Creek Agreement, particularly in areas dealing with customs and immigration procedures. Unfortunately, loss of privileges caused thousands of angry investors to make a quick and almost total exodus leaving behind the decline of a forgotten city.

After a number of false starts, Freeport is presently on the road to full recovery. Construction is up tremendously; investors, both foreign and locals, are flocking back and there is a resurgence of confidence among Freeport's 35,000 residents. This time around, with Freeport already in step with Bahamian life, the city is able to generate much needed economic contributions to the growth of the Bahamas through industry, tourism and employment for Bahamians.

For some background information, it is important to know that around the same time the government was bringing Freeport into the Bahamian mainstream, the Port Authority merged with Benguet Incorporated, a Philippine-based mining company that traded on the New York Stock Exchange. In 1974, Benguet was forced to form Intercontinental Diversified to incorporate its Bahamian holdings. These interests, which had been neglected for years, were becoming the focal points of renewed capital investment appropriations.

Instrumental in the formation of a new 'Bahamianized' Freeport was Jack Hayward, C.B.E., the son of Groves' early English partner, Sir Charles Hayward. Groves sold all of his shares to the younger Hayward in 1978, then Hayward in turn sold most of his shares to the company. It was Hayward who recognised that the future of Freeport rest in establishing it as a truly Bahamian city instead of a separate city in the Bahamas as was being done previously. Baha-

mians were brought in as an intricate part of the corporate and private structure of the city and the Port began making huge capital investments in the area. These investments should total more than \$60 million over the next few years.

Hayward's move was toward more company investment and more Bahamian involvement in Freeport as the formula for success. And he continues to be a strong factor in the revitalization of Freeport by encouraging development and tourism.

Wallace Groves and Jack Hayward are net Bahamians, but they have made Freeport the Bahamas' Second City. Groves actively retired in the early 70s, but with the constructive-thinking Hayward in charge, Freeport can look forward to growth that may well surpass the boom days of the 60s. Two men of such vision as Groves and Hayward are worthy of all the superlatives than can be heaped on them. Because of them, Freeport has become a major contributor to the Bahamas Treasury and economic infrastructure of the nation. Nothing really short of the lasting honor of knighthoods would genuinely express the appreciation of the Bahamas to them for taking Freeport from the pine forest and making it the great city that it is today.

There are some who may disagree. But upon a closer look, there is none else in the country today who have even come close to accomplishing the development feats of these two men. Groves ideas built Freeport and Hayward's superb administration makes it work for the Bahamas. Just think of it. A modern, growing city out of pine forest. The more you think of it, the more fitting knighthoods for Groves and Hayward seem as a tribute to their abilities, contributions and faith in the Bahamas and the Bahamian way.